

April/May 1991

Free to beneficiaries

# MEAN TIMES

Publication of the Auckland Unemployed Workers Rights Centre

Vol.2 Issue 9

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**MAYDAY  
MARCH**  
- Meet  
QEII Square  
Downtown  
May 1  
12.30pm

**Employment  
Contracts Bill**  
How the ECB  
will affect you!

**Special Benefits**  
Nothing but a  
sham?

**Ruth  
Richardson**  
in hiding

and lots more!

**NB** articles do not  
necessarily represent  
the position of the  
Auckland Unemployed  
Workers' Rights  
Centre.







RUTH RICHARDSON

### Maggot of the Month - Ruth Richardson - again!

It has been revealed by the media that Ruth actually wanted bigger welfare cuts than those enforced, and when AUWRC tried to question her she went into hiding!



Dear Editor,  
Why I marched in anger -

I wasn't going to march on the 4th April, and not because I didn't care. God knows I'm near burnt-out after ten years of on and off the dole and trying to survive in reducing circumstances. I care alright but I had balked at the word anger leaping off the blue pamphlet advertising the march against benefit cuts. There were murmurings of disquiet among my contemporaries too, committed workers for justice who wondered if the marchers might become so consumed with anger as to turn it into non-constructive action. We discussed the issue and I admitted to long-standing anger, ranging at times between raw-sharp-hot-hurting, and currently dull anger, probably due to fatigue.

A week before the march I sorted through a file of newspaper clippings and articles on unemployment dating from 1981, just to refresh my memory. I found the yellow pamphlet advertising the March Against Unemployment from Te Hapua to Wellington in 1988. I'd joined it in Queen St. and vividly recall the chant of "Us Now - You Next". How many of the sceptical onlookers are on the rubbish heap today?

I read through an old article I'd written for the Gisborne Herald on request, dated 2 April 1984, and headed "Battle to cope on the dole".... "Joining the dole has proved a humiliating experience".... and "One of society's new serfs". (I'd been angry enough at what I saw happening to me and others in a city of high unemployment to put pen to paper). I highlighted what I was looking for - the word 'anger'. You may be interested in what I wrote then about anger....

"If at times I have felt like hurting one of the pot plants that stand on each desk (of the Labour and Social Welfare Depts.) how must a less literate or less controlled applicant feel?"

I believe the repercussions and effects are already being seen in the violence in our society beyond the nerve-centre of the Labour Department, when perhaps suppressed anger surfaces elsewhere. We the unemployed are hurting and some turn as a wounded animal on anyone and anything.

We are the dispossessed of work, financial security, homes in most cases, luxuries, and worse still of self-worth and self-esteem."

Seven years down the track nothing much has changed for the betterment of society. All that's changed is the Government and National is more callous, has even more politicians with arrogant pride, hellbent on following free-market chic and impervious to protests. That in itself is cause enough for anger, especially if you are one of the poorest of the poor. There are dissenting angry backbenchers but they cannot be as angry as we are. So march I did. And will again.

As more and more injustices are inflicted on us it will be difficult if not impossible to suppress anger, unless one has a saintly nature.

I suggest we keep our anger on simmer because I believe some anger is necessary for positive action. Deprivation can cause inertia from debilitation. I also suggest trying to focus anger on the inane policy and not the insane policymaker, the loathed bill and not the loathsome Bill. But with people at breakingpoint, who knows what might happen.....? I can but pray.

The massive turnout of angry people and allies, the articulate professionals voicing their protest and the unity of spirit gives cause for the hope of a people with power. Power to the people is in sight.

A sugarbag kid.

Rights Centre People - some thoughts,  
Poverty in the name of progress?

Define progress -

What progress?

The National Government's policies display a regime in decay - when it has only just begun.

With each new cowardly policy this Government is signing its death warrant forever.

How can we have a highly productive society and a cowering nervous one at the same time.

Productivity comes from hope and confidence - not from self-righteous penny pinching.

An artistic, spiritual and scientific renaissance cannot occur while people have to slave for mere survival.

Governments are elected in the hope of providing an environment for the growth and development of its people.

Prosperity is the culture of universal truths!

Tana.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**PHONE NUMBERS CHANGE**  
**THE NEW NUMBERS FOR AUWRC ARE:**  
**3099-482**  
**3099-682**



## EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS BILL

The National Government's brutal politics are forcing this country into a social time-bomb - that could soon erupt.

The recent protest marches seen around this country will continue as workers and beneficiaries combine in action against the Government, and May 1st could prove to be another big day of nationwide protest.

On May 1st the Employment Contracts Bill (E.C.B.) will become law.

The E.C.B. was introduced by National at the same time as the Finance Bill - the Bill that cut the welfare state.

Both Bills were deliberately announced together, they are designed to work in tandem, their dual effect being to pit beneficiary against worker and worker against worker. This 'policy' is a wish-list of everything that the Treasury and Business Roundtable have wanted.



Treasury believes that the pre-cut benefit rates effectively "imposed a wage floor in the labour market". They also stated that "fundamental reform, associated with changes in benefit policies ... may put downward pressure on real wages for some workers".

In plain English, Treasury wanted and still wants lower benefit rates to ensure that wage levels can also be lowered.

The E.C.B. combined with the benefit cuts will force unemployed workers to undercut existing pay structures.

When the E.C.B. becomes law existing collective contracts between employer and workers will not cover any new employee who did not take part in the talks to make the contract. That means a new worker could be forced into an individual contract with lower wages and conditions.

The only restriction on how low a wage can be negotiated will be the statutory minimum wage, currently paying \$245 a week, this does not provide for any extra pay for overtime or weekend work and it doesn't apply at all to any workers under 20.

continued over page

### May Day March

**Unemployed Workers -  
Beneficiaries -  
People still in work**

Show your opposition to the Employment Contracts Bill and Benefit Cuts

Trade unionists and unemployed workers from around Auckland are gathering on May 1 for the traditional Mayday March up Queen St.

Mayday is the day of International Workers Solidarity, when we remember the struggles of our ancestors, and of our comrades overseas, and we continue the fightback here in Aotearoa.

This year's Mayday March is especially significant, because May 1 is also the day the Government's Employment Contracts Bill comes into force.

This Bill sets out to destroy the wages and working conditions of all workers, by trying to break the power of unions, and forcing workers into substandard individual contracts.

Many unions in Auckland and around NZ are calling for a General Strike on May 1.

The Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre hopes the March will be part of the Strike activities, and call on all our supporters to come out on May 1 to make the March a true demonstration of solidarity and struggle against Governments which oppress working people, here and all around the world.

Naumai, Haere Mai - Kia kaha e nga iwi, kauwhawai tonu matou.

**Join us on the  
Mayday March**

**12.30 QEII Square  
Downtown**

**Wednesday 1 May 1991**



**E.C.B. CONTINUED**

Under the E.C.B. workers will have to negotiate with their employers conditions tended to be taken for granted. It's only through the work of unions that workers get such things as holiday pay, sick and domestic leave, penal rates, redundancy agreements etc.

When the E.C.B. becomes law there will be no guaranteed holidays. The Holidays Act provides 11 statutory holidays but contracts under the E.C.B. will be legally binding above this act, thus workers could sign away their rights to holidays.

The E.C.B. provides no protection of the 40-hour five day week. The bill will allow employers to negotiate contracts with workers which have no limit on the hours or days of work.

Consider then an elderly worker made redundant applying for a new job who is terrified at the thought of becoming unemployed at a late age, that person will have a choice between signing a contract that could undercut other workers or becoming a beneficiary and facing up to a six month stand-down period for the dole while living on their redundancy pay (if he/she got any).

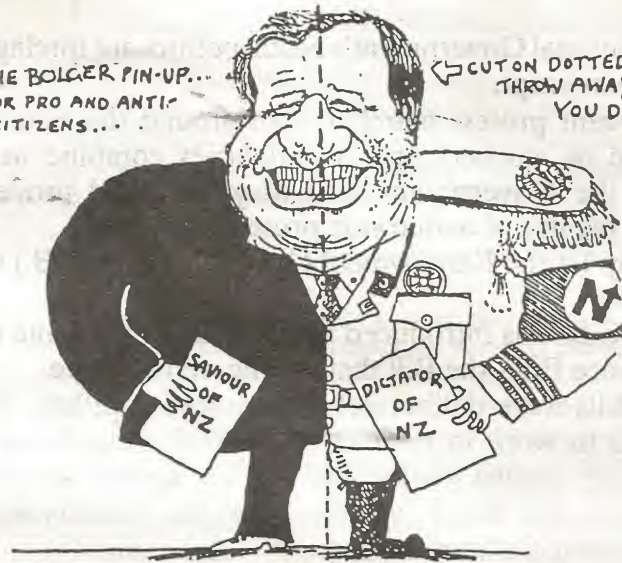
Or the case of an unemployed 18 year old who has already turned down one job because it was not suitable, i.e. the job was miles away from where they lived, they have no car and don't live in a place with reliable public transport. If this person were to turn down a second job they would lose their benefit for 26 weeks, thus they could end up signing a contract which pays the same, or even less than the benefit, even though they have to work a 45-hour week.

There are hundreds of other possible scenarios, but they all have one thing in common - the E.C.B. will bring about a reduction in wages and conditions for most people.

The Employment Contracts Bill and the welfare cuts will together ensure that living standards drop bringing poverty on a scale not seen in this country since the 1930s.

For further information about the E.C.B. contact your union now or phone us here at AUWRC ph. 399-482.

THE BOLGER PIN-UP...  
FOR PRO AND ANTI-  
CITIZENS...



CUT ON DOTTED LINE AND  
THROW AWAY THE HALF  
YOU DON'T LIKE...

## WORK-FOR-DOLE DOESN'T WORK

Unemployed and beneficiary groups around the country are protesting plans by the National Government to introduce a work for the dole scheme.

Simon Lindsay, National Coordinator of Te Roopu Rawakore, says work-for-dole schemes would cause more unemployment as paid workers were displaced by beneficiaries.

"Schemes such as this were tried in the last depression," he says. "They didn't work then and they won't work now."

"The practical difficulties of administration and supervision would be enormously expensive as the Royal Commission on Social Policy has pointed out, and if local bodies are involved it will drive up rates unless central government foots the bill".

Unemployed and beneficiary groups believe that work-for-dole schemes are a direct attack on the wages and conditions of those who still have jobs.

Maurice McTigue, Minister of Employment, says that the scheme will be largely voluntary and be aimed first at about 5000 longterm unemployed workers on a trial basis.

Unemployed groups believe though that any scheme in which people work at benefit rates and not under award wages and conditions is reprehensible. Unemployed people don't want to take other peoples' jobs away from them; and when we do get work, we too want to be paid a living wage and have the right to union coverage and protection.



### Politico/Speak

*"The long term solution to unemployment lies in adjusting to the need to face up to the new economic environment."*

*Yes we know, but what does it mean?*

*Drawn out quotes popping up in the press  
Are food for thought when times are lean,*

*When money is short, employment less.*

*MPs cosy in Cabinet nests*

*Write their recipes for reform,*

*Tell important overseas guests*

*Being out of work will be the norm*

*Until the populace accepts*

*That inflation must be curbed,*

*Down the drain go old concepts,*

*But we must not be disturbed.*

*For interest rates are dropping,*

*The banks are all agreed,*

*And though the State is cropping*

*Benefits to those in need,*

*A 'fairer but firmer' system*

*Will shortly emanate*

*'To arrest New Zealand's drift from*

*Hard work to welfare state.'*

*There are many ways of living,*

*Gardening to baking bread,*

*And long term government giving*

*Must cease - we'll try instead*

*Preserving fruit in season,*

*Commuting to the South,*

*There is no earthly reason*

*That we live from hand to mouth*

*When jobs are there in Timaru,*

*Four or five today,*

*The unemployed should hurry to*

*South Island without delay.*

*And Budgeting with Banks*

*Will soon be taught in schools,*

*For among the jobless ranks*

*Are those who need the tools*

*To manage their family wages,*

*Balance their benefits,*

*They could be taught in stages*

*To do their own audits.*

*So we have the answer, we just told you,*

*We've spelled it out above,*

*And Politico/Speak will soon enfold you*

*In its wondrous logic of Shipley love.*

*The penny's dropped with an awful thud,*

*What does it mean? It's as clear as mud!*

*Gloria Stanford*

## EXTRA BENEFITS A SHAM

Social Welfare Minister Jenny Shipley has made much of the changes her Government has made to Accommodation Benefit and Special Benefit.

When challenged about the hardship the benefit cuts is causing, she has referred to these changes, saying that "extra assistance will be available for those who need it" through these supplementary benefits.

Unfortunately, there is little substance behind Ms Shipley's rhetoric. The benefit cuts have taken about \$1200 million away from beneficiaries. The much trumpeted extra assistance through accommodation benefit and special benefit amounts to a meagre \$25 million.

The change to accommodation benefit reduces the amount of accommodation costs people have to be paying before they can get accommodation benefit. This reduction in what is known as the threshold level is in proportion to the cuts in the basic benefit rates. However, many people in desperate need will be unable to get any help from this change.

Anyone who rents from or has a mortgage with the Housing Corporation cannot get accommodation benefit. In Auckland, with high rents, many people will already be receiving the maximum accommodation benefit, which does not increase. In any case, no-one will receive an increase in accommodation benefit which goes anywhere near compensating for the cuts in basic benefits.

The changes to special benefit are a two-edged sword. The Government has reduced the amount people's essential commitments have to exceed their income before they can get special benefit from \$45 to \$20. This means that more people will be able to get special benefit.

However, beneficiaries receive no special benefit for the first \$20 of shortfall between a their essential commitments and their income. This means that a beneficiary already receiving special benefit is likely to receive a cut of \$20 in the amount of special benefit he/she receives on top of the cut in his/her basic benefit rate.

### TEST YOUR ENTITLEMENT FOR SPECIAL BENEFIT

Many more beneficiaries may be able to get special benefit as a result of the Government's changes to the rules for this benefit.

The Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre suggests that if you are not already getting a special benefit and are struggling to make ends meet, you make an application. If you don't, you'll miss out on money you're entitled to.

If you phone the Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre (309-9482), you can find out whether it's worth your while applying for special benefit.



## Welfare Cuts Morality

This advert appeared in the Auckland Star on 26th of March this year, and could be the first of many more of its kind to be seen in the papers in the days to come. The Unemployed Workers rights Centre has warned since the cuts were first announced, under the Labour Government, that the social impact of the cuts would include an increase in crime, homelessness and prostitution among others. Evidence of this kind is indeed a "frightening thought" and disturbing confirmation of those fears.

The AUWRC recognizes that it is the right of individuals to choose whatever life-style or occupation they like to support themselves and in no way condemns prostitutes for the work they do. But not only will these cuts force people into prostitution they will also lower the wages and working conditions of these people and force more out onto the streets.

The National Government is very sanctimonious about morals when it comes to talking about welfare budgets and bludging unemployed people, but is prepared to callously reduce peoples incomes to the level at which, for some, there is no alternative left.

### WELFARE CUTBACK/ UNEMPLOYMENT

A frightening thought. We require ladies to work as Masseuses for Geisha Bath-house and Famous Floras. As Auckland's best we can offer you a friendly working environment and a chance for you to grab those elusive luxuries in life. Full training is provided, call us on 792-394 aft. 9am



## SPEAK YOUR MIND

These days it seems to get harder and harder to make oneself and opinions heard. One of the few methods left to the general public is Talkback. Although only a few radio stations still offer this service it can be a very effective way in which to influence popular opinion and to advertise upcoming activities and/or protests. That is if you can put up with the high proportion of talkback listeners who seem to have social attitudes that could get them into the National party "think tank". Make the most of the radio and get your point of view across.

|          |         |             |                  |                     |
|----------|---------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 95BFM    | 95 FM   | 307-3918    | Sunday           | 10.00 pm to 1.00 am |
| Aotearoa | 603 AM  | 800-801-840 | Monday to Friday | 9.30 am to 11.30 am |
| Pacific  | 702 AM  | 3093-099    | Sunday to Friday | 8.00 pm to 12.00 pm |
| 1ZB      | 1080 AM | 307-1080    | Monday to Sunday | 24 hrs              |
| Rhema    | 1251 AM | 338-2999    | Monday to Sunday | 24 hrs              |
|          |         |             | Sunday           | 9.30 pm to 12.00 am |



## COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTRE TRUST UPDATE

The Medical Centre is booming!

It is official - there is now a woman doctor on duty Friday mornings. She is highly experienced in obstetrics so the Medical Centre can now follow pregnancies right through from conception to birth.

Please make an appointment to see the Friday morning doctor - just phone the Peoples' Centre, ph. 302-2496, it pays to join.

Doctor Fernando is still available at other times of the week and no appointment is needed.

Remember membership to the Peoples Centre entitles everyone to free use of the Doctors' facilities and much more.

Along with the services already advertised the Peoples' Centre is now offering a range of other services and activities.

During the last month the Peoples' Centre has run a fruit and vege co-op, along with a second-hand clothing stall, every Thursday morning. If support builds for these activities the services will be continued.

So phone the Peoples' Centre now to find out what is happening!

*A SONG FOR RUTHLESS  
RUTH RICHARDSON  
(Tune - Waltzing Matilda)*

*Washing the dishes,  
Great heaps of nappies,  
I've got a nanny to do that for me!  
And while she's minding Lucy,  
I'm sitting up in Parliament,  
Bashing the mums who are poorer  
than me!*

*Cut off the dole and the age old  
pension,  
Give up your babies to rich folk like  
me!*

*'Cos if you're not a farmer,  
You don't deserve a subsidy,  
Who'll come and work as a nanny  
for me?*

*Chorus  
Give up your babies,  
Give up your babies,  
You don't deserve them if you're not  
rich like me.*

*If you adopt your baby out,  
And go back to the labour force,  
You'll come and work as a nanny  
for me!*

A6 Sunday Star, March 24, 1991  
**SUNDAY  
STAR**

### LAST MONTHS CROSSWORD ANSWERS

#### ACROSS:

2. Joy
4. Banks
7. Enemy
9. Lockwood
10. Dig
12. Tight
14. Rising (& 15d)
16. Submissions
18. Money
19. United
21. Birch
23. Egg
24. Cod
27. Rights (& 13d)
29. Twig
30. Suit
31. Echo
32. Ruin

#### DOWN:

1. Twentysix weeks
2. Jim (& 21d)
3. Help
5. Kidd
6. Action
8. Yet
11. Grey
13. Human
15. Number
17. Speech
20. Falloon
21. Bolger
22. Cullen
25. Otter
26. DSW
27. Ruth
28. Gatt

### Political prayer

OUR Bolger, who art in heaven,  
Parliament be its name. Thy turn  
has come: we wilt be done. At work  
as it will in retirement. Give us this  
day our weekly benefit, And forgive  
us our disbelief, As we forgive those  
who hath lied to us. And lead us not  
into unemployment, But deliver us  
from Ruth, For thine is the power,  
and the perks, and the pensions for  
ever and ever, Amen.

L. R. MARTIN  
Milford



# MARCH OF ANGER MARCH OF ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGER

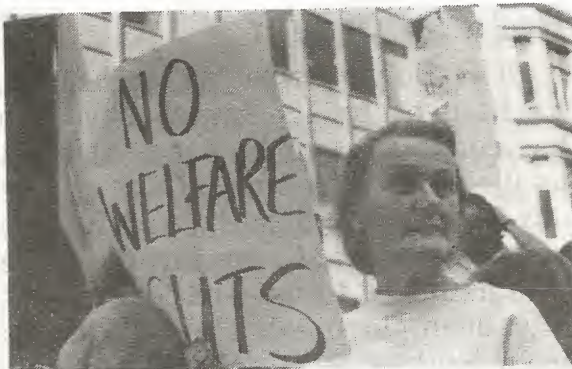
The Auckland Star heralded the march as the 'louts day on the street', the Chamber of Commerce promptly called for a ban of all marches, the Police Assistant Commissioner claimed 'next time we'll get tough'.

With the burning of effigies, the peaceful demonstrations in banks, the spontaneous reaction to a derogatory sign, and the attack on a multi-national company the 'March of Anger' was not the 'stroll up Queen Street' the public has come to expect of these demonstrations.

It was angry, as the name suggested.

Over 6000 anxious protestors marched up Queen Street, waving placards and chanting catchy slogans against the unfairness of the present government. Effigies of the Prime Minister, Mr Bolger, Minister of Finance, Ruth Richardson and Minister of Social Welfare, Jenny Shipley stood tall amongst the angry demonstrators.

Three banks along Queen Street were entered (the staff were in no physical danger). They were targeted because they and other financial institutions, who are heavily represented on the Business Roundtable, will benefit from the government's attacks on both working people and beneficiaries. Police made no attempt to stop those in the banks, letting them leave when their protest was finished.



# MARCH OF ANGER MARCH OF ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGE



# MARCH OF ANGER MARCH OF ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGER



The march stopped at the corner of Victoria and Queen Streets resulting in the intersection been blocked with protestors for over 30 minutes.

A very vocal audience sitting in a circle, applauded as the effigies of the three politicians were burned in the middle of the intersection.

At the same time an electronic noticeboard on the Corner Building flashed a message, 'Stop your whinging, get a job.' This prompted up to 100 protestors to storm the building, riding up and down the escalators chanting 'give us a job'.

McDonalds was targeted because it is a multi-national company with a reputation of exploiting it's low-paid workers. After the initial verbal attack on McDonalds, the storming of the restaurant was a spontaneous reaction from the crowd. March organisers tried to contain the angry and vocal crowd outside, while police tried to maintain control of the entrance. Three people were arrested after a tense stand-off with police outside and in the restaurant.

After 10 minutes the march headed to Aotea Square, where a number of speeches were made before the crowd dispersed. The march and the various actions throughout the afternoon disrupted Queen Street for more than two hours.

The march prompted the editor of the Auckland Star to label the protest 'un-New Zealand', but since the depression of the 1930s the New Zealand public has never had a reason to be so angry.



# MARCH OF ANGER MARCH OF ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGER MARCH of ANGER



## ACTION UPDATE

# SQUIRM RUTH SQUIRM

Those who happened to hear the overly-polite exchange between the Minister of Finance and Pam 'they call me Cork!' Corkery on Radio Pacific recently may have received a little comic relief.

Beneficiaries would have been delighted to hear Ms Richardson squirm while they desperately recalled all their mathematical tuition, wondering how to subtract \$130 from \$108. Alas no one could work it out, rather like the Minister's economic policies.

'Mizzz Richardson' as Pam Corkery oh so politely called her, came across the airwaves in her usual cliched and pretentious manner.



She used terminology like 'bucks' instead of 'dollars' and referred to herself as a 'bird'.

At the very beginning of the interview the Minister was asked what qualifications she had to hold such a complex portfolio, she said she liked people and was the mother of two children. So are thousands of other New Zealanders, but they never kid themselves into thinking they could be the Minister of Finance.

Listeners adhered to their wireless would have heard what the public has known for sometime. 'Ruthy' is not an economist!

She has however those two greatest of qualities 'spine and soul' - whooppee!! - so has a hedgehog.

The Minister tried to disassociate herself from the overseas debt by claiming, 'it's not my debt, it's your debt'.

When challenged as to why taxpayers were paying both public and private sector debt, Ms Richardson could only rabbit her usual Treasury cliches.

Ms Richardson claimed not to know the cost of ministerial perks, and seemed 'genuinely shocked' to hear 'Bellamys' was subsidized by the taxpayer! One government finance she knew a little of was her own income, but refused to divulge any figures, only saying 'with the increase of responsibilities, I did receive a huge increase in income'. Surprise, surprise.

In a quick summary, Pam Corkery said of the Minister, 'a person with limited economic knowledge, clutching at her bungling advisors' and how could she 'sit in Opposition for 6 years, claiming to be a financial whiz' and now tell the voters 'I never knew what was coming'.

Well the general public are able to tell 'Ruthonomics' what is coming - poverty, child-abuse, crime, depression...

*By Viona Crowley*

## NO! MRS SHIPLEY

### The benefit cuts are not on!

A phone-poll organised by the Auckland Star during the first week of welfare cuts registered that three out of four Aucklanders were opposed to National's policy.

In the snap poll an overwhelming 81% of readers said no. Just 19% agreed with the April 1st measures.

The paper reported 'it is a resounding message from Aucklanders that Social Welfare Minister Jenny Shipley could be foolish to ignore.'



## ACTION UPDATE

### RICHARDSON IN HIDING

On April 5th the Unemployed Workers Rights Centre organised a picket against Ruth Richardson outside Radio Pacific. Unfortunately the protest came to an abrupt end after organisers were informed that the Minister had gone into hiding 'somewhere in Auckland'.

She refused to come in person to the studio as previously arranged, also the Minister refused to accept any calls from the public, part of the original scenario of the talkback show.

In recent times the National Party has tightened security for its cabinet ministers in fear of widespread disruption of its meetings following the April 1st benefit cuts.

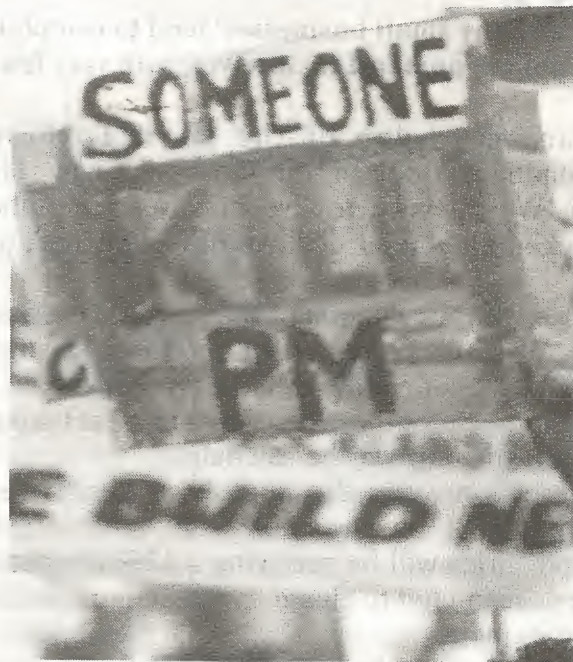
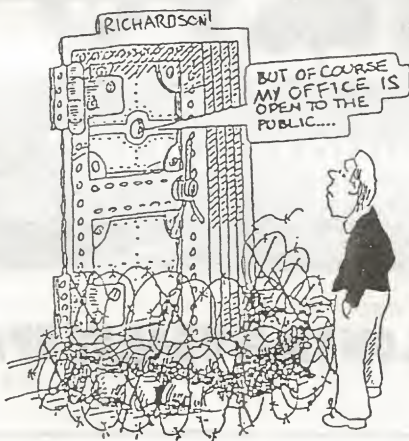
The party president, John Collinge has reminded electorates to check that local police and the diplomatic protection squad are notified of visiting ministers.

The warning follows massive nation wide protests over Ms Richardson's economic policies and a paint-bomb and egg-throwing attack on the Minister a month ago in Titirangi.

In a press release, the Unemployed Workers Rights Centre Co-ordinator, Sue Bradford said 'the government will become impotent, unable to run the country within a few months, as key MPs are too afraid to show their faces in public.'

'The cabinet will have to operate in total isolation behind locked doors in the Beehive, prisoners of their own economic policies.'

Electorate organisations hosting ministers are being told to ensure there is adequate security, particularly for the Minister of Finance, Ruth Richardson, and Jenny Shipley the Minister of Social Welfare.



*Placard spotted at April 4th March of Anger*

### PM, Anger Is No Reason For Threats

Mr Bolger denied the incident where a man entered the Beehive with a hand gun, shouting he wanted to shoot the Prime Minister, is in any way related to mounting community anger against the government's economic policies.

However a number of National's MP's have continually received death threats since the announcement of the government's Finance Bill last year. The majority, if not all, of these threats have come from people angry at the slashing of the welfare state.

A few months ago, as reported in this magazine, Ruth Richardson, Jenny Shipley and their families were given extra security after receiving threats which party officials claimed put their lives in danger.

The Minister of Police, John Banks, spoke recently of receiving a number of death threats, he has taken none of them seriously.

*Mean Times does not condone the use of violence or threats against politicians, but we understand the anger felt by ordinary people, which leads them to make such threats.*



## - BOOKSHOP WITH NO GST -

**M**any small businesses' tend to complain, argue and debate the government's economic policies amongst themselves, with very few taking their views into the wider community.

Warren Jordan of the Hard To Find Secondhand Bookshop in Onehunga has. He said 'We all have to live in this society and attacking the under dog will ultimately hurt us all.'

Since the introduction of the April 1st welfare cuts, Warren's bookshop will no longer charge G.S.T to beneficiaries and tertiary students.

He appreciates these people cannot eat books, but it is the only way he can help.

There is no way the bookshop cannot stop paying G.S.T on any books sold, so in effect beneficiaries will be receiving a 12% discount. The decision not to charge G.S.T is more political statement.

He is angry at the callousness of the present government in cutting the incomes of those least able to afford it.

He asks why don't National force the handful of rich to return the billions of dollars they have taken from the New Zealand economy and

invested overseas - instead of taking these cowardly actions against people already struggling.

Warren understands the implications the welfare cuts will mean for small business owners like himself. When he worked for the Department of Social Welfare, he saw that beneficiaries spend their entire benefit payment each week.

If the government is taking \$1 billion from the income of beneficiaries that is millions of dollars which will not be spent in the retail sector, leading to more redundancies and unemployment.

He's seen none of National's policies stimulating the New Zealand economy, and plenty which are hurting it.

He knows that except for the wealthy few, which includes most politicians, most New Zealanders are struggling, and that political promises now appear to be euphuism for lies.

The Hard To Find Bookshop is situated at 171 The Mall, Onehunga, phone: 644-370.

## WHO KILLED THE WELFARE STATE?

**TWIN  
PARTIES**



**NOBODY'S INNOCENT, BUT WHO'S GUILTY?**

**THE SOAPBOX OPERA THAT CONTINUES ON IN 3 YEARLY EPISODES**



## POLITICAL FORUM

*Political Forum is a column of discussion on different political theories ranging from Adam Smith to Mao Ze Dong.*

*The Unemployed Workers Rights Centre would like to stress that the views expressed in this column are not necessarily representative of AUWRC.*

government or rulers. It doesn't mean chaos, disorder, bombs, murder and robbery. That's what government is all about. Nor does it mean a return to the wild.



Anarchists seek a form of social life in which nobody is in a position to oppress or exploit anybody else, and in which all the means to achieve maximum material and intellectual development are available to everyone equally.

Capitalism, which is the exploitation of workers and the environment by bosses through means of the accumulation of capital, can only be destroyed when the working class itself takes control of society in industry and the community.

State ownership of the means of production and distribution (nationalisation) is no solution, it just means one set of bosses are replaced by another. People only have to look at the state-capitalist (so called communist) countries to see that state-ownership is just as exploitative as private ownership and offers nothing for the working class.

### ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM - WHAT IS IT?

There are two components to anarcho-syndicalism: anarchism and syndicalism.

Anarcho-syndicalists are anarchists who see syndicalism as an effective means of action to bring about a free, stateless, classless and equalitarian society.

Anarchism is the political ideology that advocates that society could be organised without constituted authority, without

Anarcho-syndicalists believe that nothing short of workers self-management will do.

Unless people are well organised and prepared for the running and collective management of society as a whole, then what will happen is that the largest 'revolutionary' party will take control, that is if the revolution has not already been destroyed by reactionary forces. This is where the relevance of syndicalism comes in.

Syndicalism, originally used by the French as meaning trade-unionism, is a form of revolutionary industrial unionism.

These unions unite workers in a workplace not separating them up into their trades. As well as gaining improvements within capitalism (in terms of wages and conditions) its overall aim is to overthrow capitalism by a social revolution based on the economic direct action of the workers.



The structure of the syndicate is based at the place of work. The syndicate serves to coordinate the actions of workers in different workplaces. It has a

federal organisational structure with no permanent bureaucracy, any officials are chosen on a short-term basis with no authority and are subject to immediate recall.

Syndicalists reject the use of parliament and all political parties and instead recognise we must start relying on our collective strength through the use of direct action.

By organising industrially the workers will be building a new society within the shell of the old.



Syndicalism aims at effective industrial organisation so as to enable workers to manage the industrial system themselves once they have seized it.

There are anarcho-syndicalist unions and organisations in 15 countries and a network of anarchists worldwide.

*This article has extremely simplified both anarchism and syndicalism.*

*For anyone wishing to know more, please send a couple of dollars to the - anarchist alliance of aotearoa PO Box 78-104*

*Grey Lynn  
Auckland*

*(This article was written by an anarcho-syndicalist supporter of the Unemployed Rights Centre.)*



## Is New Zealand becoming a Third World Country?

The Development Education Trust - a Christchurch-based group working to raise awareness about issues of poverty and injustice in "Third World" countries - recently published a traditional recipe for the creation of a "Third World" country. D.E.T. believe that the Government's December 1990 economic package follows the familiar and totally disastrous formula. What do you think?

The recipe for a "Third World" status country includes -

- deregulation of the labour market;
- the position of unions becomes weakened almost to the point of extinction for many;
- Government policy ensures the presence of a large pool of unemployment in order to force labour costs down;
- multinational companies based overseas are encouraged to invest capital on the promise of low labour costs;
- pay-rates for low status work continue to decrease;
- poverty, crime, illness, violence and addictions increase;
- a new generation of separate classes becomes evident as only rich children have access to health services and tertiary education;
- the armed forces become a threat to the local people. Military action is directed against the poor in particular, and individuals who attempt to question the system are suppressed, even tortured;
- control of the economy moves out of the hands of local people, who increasingly have work choices reduced to those servicing the needs of tourists, overseas investors and multinationals;
- most profits go out of the country to international banks, moneylenders and massive corporations;
- environmental concerns become a luxury
- the poor become dependent on overseas aid which often involves different cultural and religious pressures.



### *Winter Soup - Hot Potatoe Brew*

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>1 potatoe per person</i>  | <i>1/2 an onion per person</i> |
| <i>carrots, peas, garlic (basically use all your left over vegies)</i> |                                |
| <i>milk</i>  | <i>thyme and mixed herbs</i>   |
| <i>stale bread</i>   | <i>cheese</i>                  |

*Boil all the vegetables and herbs together until cooked, drain off half of the water. If you wish to have a thick creamy soup, at this stage you can blend the vegetables together or mash them.*

*Add milk to the vegetable mixture, stirr regularly and simmer at a low heat.*

*Cut stale bread into cubes, sprinkle grated cheese over the top and place under the grill.*

*Add remaining cheese to vegetables.*

*When bread cubes are crisp, serve soup in bowls, with bread floating on top.*

*This is a quick, cheap but satisfying meal for the cold*

GOOD AFTERNOON MRS BROWN, GLAD TO HEAR YOUR SISTER IS BETTER. LIKE THE NEW ROSES IN YOUR GARDEN. I SEE THAT YOUR NEW NEIGHBOURS HAVE GOT A GREENPEACE STICKER IN THEIR WINDOW. RADICAL PROTESTERS ARE THEY?



### *BLUE LINE DISCO*

*Police building prison,  
wrapped in grey concrete shrouds  
from square-eyed windows  
frowns down at the city  
and inside the uniformed inhabitants  
watch with binoculars and microscopes,  
fascinated by the myriad patterns  
of lights streetmaps moving cars and people;  
inside they are the thin line  
that protects our freedom from disorder,  
our lives from the chaos within.*

*R. Cathcart  
March '91*



## FREE HEALTH CLINIC

Doctor available at Community Medical Centre Trust

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But first you must join the Peoples' Centre

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The Community Medical Centre is located in the same building as the Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre.

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### ADDRESSES:

- Combined Beneficiaries Union - T.U.C. 159 Great North Rd. Ph. 764-760
- Christchurch Unemployed Rights Collective - PO Box 13-527, Christchurch. Ph. 661-964
- Beneficiaries Unemployed Movement - 34 Harwood St. Hamilton. Ph. 381-793
- Hastings Combined Union of Beneficiaries - 202 Allerton St. Hastings. Ph. 82795
- Te Whare Awhina - Okaihau, RD 2, Mangamuka Bridge, Hokianga.
- South Waikato Unemployed & Beneficiaries Union - TUC, Tokoroa. Ph. 886-6377.
- Southland Unemployed Rights Centre - C/- 209 John St. Invercargill. Ph. 85-506.
- Kaitaia Combined Unemployed & Beneficiaries Assn. - PO Box 577, Kaitaia.
- Nelson Unemployed Workers Trust - 108 Collingwood St. Nelson or PO Box 926, Nelson. Ph. 88-171
- Taranaki Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre - 98 Liardet St. New Plymouth. Ph. 75-993
- Palmerston North Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre - PO Box 1462, Palmerston North. Ph. 73-737
- Waihi Unemployed Group - PO Box 160, Waihi. Ph. 7555
- Wellington Unemployed Workers' Union - 3 Eva St. Wellington. Ph. 858-596
- Westport-Buller Unemployed Trust - 2 Fomblanque St. Westport. Ph. 8099
- Whangarei Unemployed & Beneficiaries Union - TUC, 7 First Ave. Whangarei. Ph. (089) 489-637
- Te Roopu Rawakore - (National Unemployed & Beneficiaries Movement) - 98 Liardet St. New Plymouth. Ph. 75-933
- See back page for - Auckland Unemployed Workers' Rights Centre.

## HARD TO FIND

- But worth the effort -

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For more information phone 302-1696.

Join and start trading now!

## Green Dollars Update

The Green Dollar Exchange now has two new workers, Inia and Christine, plus a new office.

The office is still located in the People's Centre but is now open 5 days a week 9-5. There has been some delay in moving phones to the new office but hopefully this will be fixed very soon.

Overall the Exchange has been running exceedingly well. With lots of publicity work been done the Exchange is now achieving a high profile. And with the benefit cuts Green Dollars are becoming a more viable alternative.

There are now close to 300 members and it is still growing rapidly.

For further information about the Green Dollars Exchange phone 302-1696.

## THE AUCKLAND UNEMPLOYED WORKERS RIGHTS CENTRE

is located at -

1ST FLOOR  
14 - 18 CUSTOMS ST. EAST  
DOWNTOWN  
AUCKLAND CITY

PO BOX 3813  
AUCKLAND 1

Phone:  
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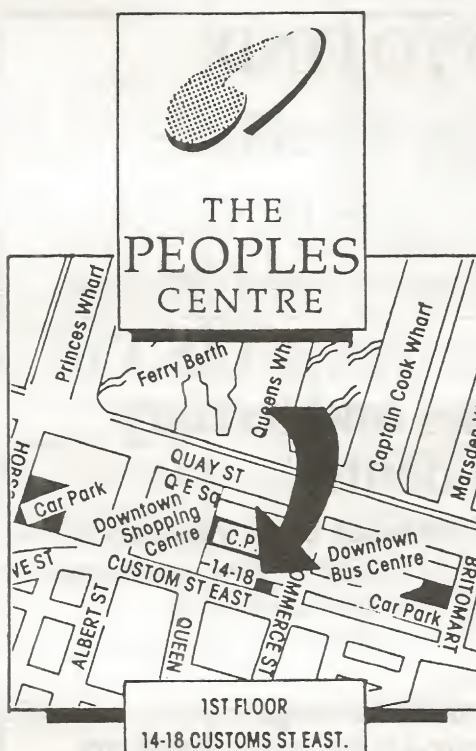
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